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REGULATORY RELATIONS**

Richard Matteis
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MLPAI Staff
California Department of Fish and Game

Dear MLPAI Staff,

The California Aquaculture Association would like to submit the following comments on the revised Draft Master Plan:

Mariculture is generally considered to be a non-extractive use. Rearing of aquatic animals and plants for consumption as food requires good water quality and a healthy environment. Therefore, sustainable mariculture projects and MPA's may have common goals.

Mariculture is a coastal dependant activity that could be impacted by the creation of networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPA's). Such impacts could result from the denial of access for future mariculture projects to areas within MPA's, and could result from restriction of access to existing projects.

Mariculture should be allowed in all MPA's to the extent that the type of mariculture proposed is compatible with the specific goals and objectives of that MPA.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Arthur Seavey
Government Affairs Committee
California Aquaculture Association

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